2. (amended) The diagnostic agent of claim 1 wherein said substituted aromatic amide group is of the formula

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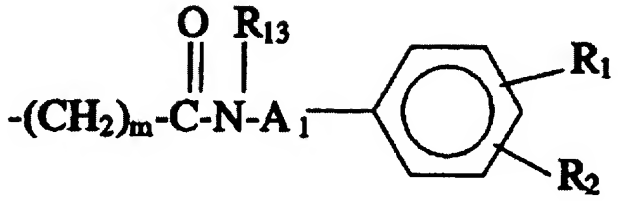

wherein

A_1 is - $(CH_2)_m$' - or a single bond;

$(CH_2)_m$ and $(CH_2)_m$' may independently be substituted with alkyl or hydroxyalkyl;

R_1 and R_2 are independently hydrogen,

A 18 cd

alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NH_2$, $-NHCNHR_{12}$, $-CNR_3R_4$, NR_3COR_9

where R_9 is C_4 - C_{18} straight or branched chain alkyl or hydroxyalkyl, with the proviso that at least one of R_1 and R_2 must be other than hydrogen;

R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy and hydroxyalkyl;
R_{12} is hydrogen, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl;

R_{13} is hydrogen, alkyl or arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy or hydroxyalkyl;

m and m' are independently 0 to 5;

and multimeric forms thereof.

3. (amended) A diagnostic agent of claim 2 wherein said ligand is of the formula

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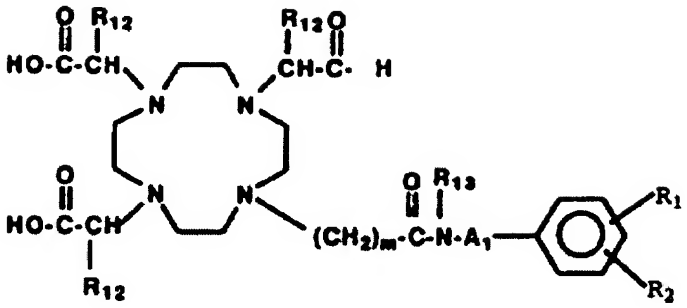
Ia



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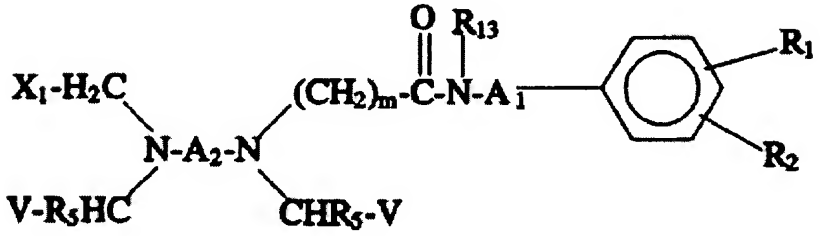

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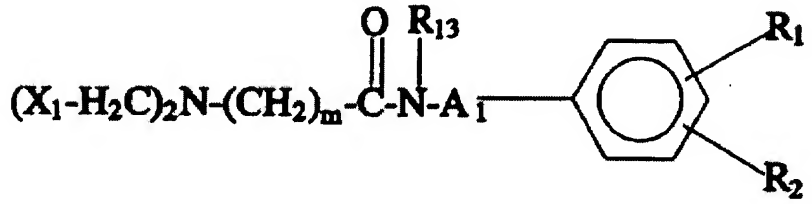

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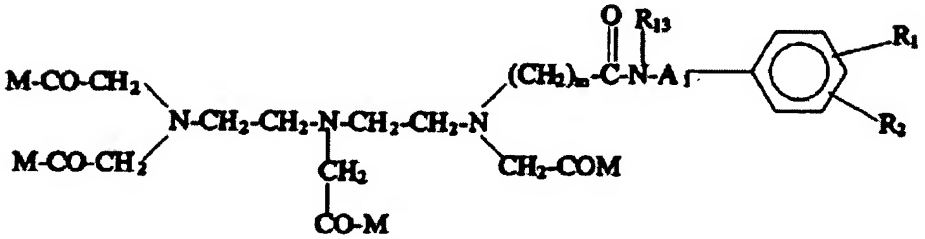

wherein m, R_{13}, A_1, R_1, R_2, and R_{12} are as defined in claim 2 and wherein

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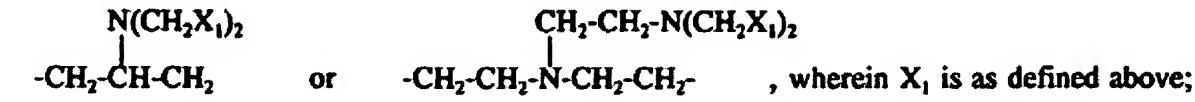
X_1 is $-COOY_1$, PO_3HY_1 or $-CONHOY_1$;

Y_1 is a hydrogen atom, a metal ion equivalent and/or a physiologically biocompatible cation of an inorganic or organic base or amino acid;

A_2 is $-CHR_6-CHR_7-$, $-CH_2CH_2(ZCH_2-CH_2)_n-$,



, wherein X_1 is as defined above;

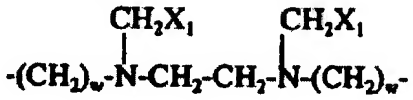
each R_5 is hydrogen or methyl;

R_6 and R_7 together represent a trimethylene group or a tetramethylene group or individually are hydrogen atoms, lower alkyl groups (e.g., 1-8 carbons), phenyl groups, benzyl groups or R_6 is a hydrogen atom and R_7 is a $-(CH_2)_p-C_6-H_4-W$-protein where p is 0 or 1, W is -NH-, $-NHCOCH_2-$ or -NHCS-, protein represents a protein residue;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

Z is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom or the group NCH_2X_1 or $NCH_2CH_2OR_8$ wherein X_1 is as defined above and R_8 is C_{1-8} alkyl;

V is X_1 or is $-CH_2OH$, $-CONH(CH_2)_rX_1$ or -COB, wherein X_1 is as defined above, B is a protein or lipid residue, r is an integer from 1 to 12, or if R_5, R_6 and R_7 are each hydrogen; then both V's together form the group



where X_1 is as above, w is 1, 2 or 3, provided that at least two of the substituents Y_1 represent metal ion equivalents of an element with an atomic number of 21 to 29, 42, 44 or 57 to 83; from 1 to 4, advantageously 2 or 3, and preferably 2 M's are -OH and the balance independently are

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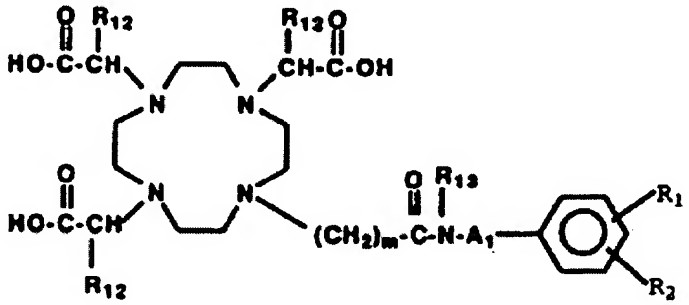
-OR_{10}, -NH_2, -NHR_{10} and/or $NR_{10}R_{10}$' wherein R_{10} and R_{10}' are selected from an organic alkyl radical of up to 18 carbon atoms which may be substituted.

6. (amended) A compound of the formula



wherein

A_1 is -$(CH_2)_m$' - or a single bond;

$(CH_2)_m$ and $(CH_2)_m$' may independently be substituted with alkyl or hydroxyalkyl;

R_1 and R_2 are each independently hydrogen,

A 18

alkyl, -NO_2, -NH_2, -$NHCNHR_{12}$, -C-NR_3R_4 and NR_3COR_9 where R_9 is C_4 -C_{18} straight or branched chain alkyl or hydroxyyalkyl, with the proviso that at least one of R_1 and R_2 must be other than hydrogen;

R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy and hydroxyalkyl;

R_{12} is hydrogen, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl;

R_{13} is hydrogen, alkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy or hydroxyalkyl;

m and m' are independently 0 to 5;

and multimeric forms thereof.

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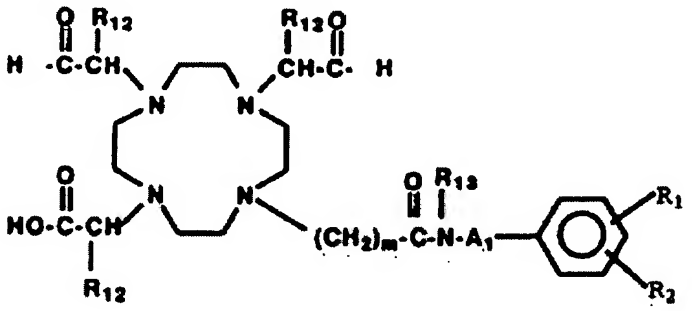
11. (amended) A compound of the formula



having the name 10-[2-[[3,5-bis[(2,3-dihydroxypropyl)amino]-carbonyl]phenyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl]-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7-triacetic acid,

wherein

A_1 is $-(CH_2)_{m'}-$ or a single bond;

$(CH_2)_m$ and $(CH_2)_{m'}$ may independently be substituted with alkyl or hydroxyalkyl;

A20

R_1 and R_2 are each independently hydrogen,

alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NH_2$, $-NHCNHR_{12}$, $-C-NR_3R_4$ and NR_3COR_9 where R_9 is C_4 $-C_{18}$ straight or branched chain alkyl or hydroxyyalkyl, with the proviso that at least one of R_1 and R_2 must be other than hydrogen;

R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy and hydroxyalkyl;

R_{12} is hydrogen, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl;

R_{13} is hydrogen, alkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy or hydroxyalkyl;

m and m' are independently 0 to 5;

and multimeric forms thereof.

A21

39. A complex or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a complex, of a metal atom and a metal chelating ligand having the formula

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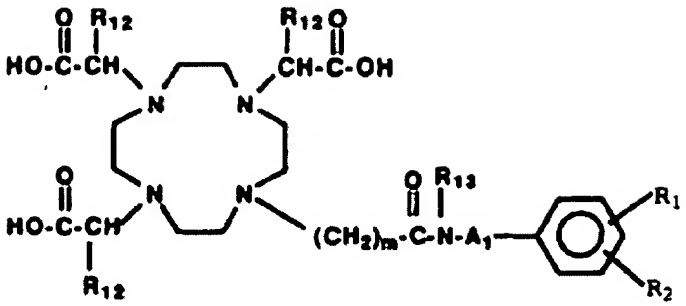

wherein

A_1 is $-(CH_2)_m'-$ or a single bond;

$(CH_2)_m$ and $(CH_2)_m'$ may independently be substituted with alkyl or hydroxyalkyl;

R_1 and R_2 are each independently hydrogen,

A 21 c-d

alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NH_2$, $-NHCNHR_{12}$, $-C-NR_3R_4$ and NR_3COR_9 where R_9 is C_4 -C_{18} straight or branched chain alkyl or hydroxyyalkyl, with the proviso that at least one of R_1 and R_2 must be other than hydrogen;

R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy and hydroxyalkyl;

R_{12} is hydrogen, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl;

R_{13} is hydrogen, alkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy or hydroxyalkyl;

m and m' are independently 0 to 5;

and multimeric forms thereof.

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